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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

REIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

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Recent Notes of Information from the Office of Seed  
and Plant Introduction

by

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Agricultural Explorer in Charge.

The Office of Seed and Plant Introduction desires to strengthen its bonds of cooperation with the other offices of the Bureau of Plant Industry and, in order to bring to their attention as soon as possible after their introduction the various plants which come in from abroad, it has been suggested that there be issued at frequent intervals brief notes on the new arrivals.

At the same time it has seemed advisable to combine with these notes on new importations the names and addresses of the more important callers who have paid the office a visit and who are likely to be valuable as correspondents in foreign countries, and also brief statements regarding interesting men whom we have gotten in touch with through correspondence and to whom we may apply for information regarding some of the Plant Industries with which the various Officers of the Bureau are working.

If any of the plants recently introduced are wanted by you in your experiments, please place a written request for some of them at once and your name will be put on our list to receive them when they are sent out. If you have any request to make of any caller who has been here or of any of our foreign correspondents, please write and the matter will be taken up with the correspondent at once.

Kindly keep it in mind that we are likely at any time to be able to get for your work any new plant that you desire, providing you know exactly what it is and where it is to be found. We are able often also to discover where a plant is in some foreign country and thru our rapidly growing correspondence list to import it in a few weeks time if you will give us an idea of what you want.

Trusting that these notes will interest the members of the Bureau Staff and increase the usefulness of this branch of the Service, I remain,

Very truly yours,

David Fairchild,

Agricultural Explorer in Charge  
of Foreign Explorations.

We may fail to reach in our first distribution of these notes all in the Bureau who are particularly interested and I would be glad to receive applications from those who desire to be put on the mailing list.

## New Plant Immigrants.

Received between Oct. 1 and 12th, 1908.

AFRICA, Egypt. *Citrullus vulgaris*. 23711 Rec. Sept. 23 from Mr. H. S. Smiley. "Seed of the Boutique el Zeit commonly known as the 'Unedible Watermelon'. This seed comes from south of the Bahr el Ghazal and round the port of Rumhek. The natives grow it after the rains, extract the seeds and boil them. The result is an oil, said to be very good for lighting purposes."

Australia, Melbourne. *Medicago sativa*. Rec. in Aug. from Mr. Edward Mead. 23752. Hunter River or Tamworth. "This comes from the chief alfalfa growing district in Australia." 23753, Queensland. This alfalfa was grown at Clifton on the Downs by a man who is well up in the saving of a good strain of broad leaf alfalfa."

Australia, Sydney, N. S. W. *Eucalyptus microtheca*. 23713. Sept. 8. "Widely dispersed over the most arid extra-tropical as well as tropical inland regions of Australia. Withstands unscorched a frequent heat of 156°F in Central Australia, yet neither affected by exceptionally severe frosts (18°F) in the South of France, when many other Eucalypts suffered. The development of this species in southern France and Algeria has been marvelously quick. One of the best trees for desert tracts; in favorable places 150 feet high."

Australia, Wellington Point, Brisbane, Queensland. *Rubus*. 23748. Rec. Oct. 3 from Mr. James Pink. "Federal. A cross between *Rubus flava* from Japan and our native *Rubus rosaefolius*. Did not think much of it till present season. It has improved much by cultivation and become a great favorite in the markets--in fact it is the only *Rubus* grown for commercial purposes in Queensland. The fruit is larger than the English raspberry and a bright crimson color."

Brazil, Piracicaba, Sao Paulo. *Stizolobium*. 23751. Rec. Sept. 14 from Prof. J. Wm. Hart who says: "I

think this will prove one of our best legumes for green manuring."

Chile, Santa Ines. *Citrus trifoliata*. 23658. Purchased Sept. 25 from Mr. S. Izquierdo who says: "I cultivate this species here and it is the stock which I use for grafting the citrus varieties producing fruits for the trade. I have noticed that the flowers are of large size."

England, Kew. *Viola calcarata*. 23645. Presented by Mr. David Prain, Director Royal Botanic Gardens, Sept. 21. Introduced for the purpose of hybridizing with the common pansy to produce an improved pansy that will withstand hot summer weather.

Georgia, Savannah. *Aegle marmelos*. 23745. Oct. 6. Plants of the Bael tree of India, the leaves, fruit and root of which are used medicinally.

India, Sibpur, Calcutta. Rec. Aug. 21 from Mr. W. W. Smith the following seeds: 23734; *Tamarindus indica*. 23735; *Cajanus indicus*. May help us where grown in cotton fields to enrich the soil. Better than cow-peas. (Van Deman.) 23736-7; Mangos. The above were procured at the suggestion of some students from India who visited here in 1907.

Japan, Yokohama. Bamboo. 23746. Oct. 2. Misuzudake; a dwarf variety of bamboo growing wild at high altitude in the province of Shinshiu.

New Zealand, Wellington. Rec. Sept. 30 from Mr. T. W. Kirk: 23741. *Sophora tetroptera*. A small tree with exceedingly hard and durable wood which can be used for cog-wheels and other select structures. Trunk exceptionally attains a diameter of 3 feet. The wood differs much from that of *S. Tomairo* of the Easter Islands. 23743. *Myrsine urvillei*. This is a small, closely branched tree 10-20 feet high; bark red on the young branches. Flowers crowded in fascicles on branches below leaves, small, whitish. Fruits small, round,

black. These characters seem to be important in an ornamental way if it will stand our climate.

23744. *Clianthus puniceus*. "This is an old-fashioned greenhouse plant grown sometimes to cover rafters or trellis work, but more frequently trained around sticks placed around the edge of the pot. Cultivated in eastern greenhouses and a favorite Californian outdoor shrub. The flowers, not very unlike those of the common *Erythrina*, are freely produced in hanging clusters."

Peru, Lima. *Medicago sativa*. 23749. Rec. July 10 from Senor Ignacio la Puente, who states that the variety is one greatly prized in the coast country of Peru. Kaerger states that in the coastal region of Peru alfalfa will not grow in the height of summer (Jan. and Feb.) even tho it be given ample irrigation. The esteem in which this variety is held may bear some relation to this fact."

New or Important Foreign Correspondents Recently  
Heard From or Gotten Trace Of.

Africa, South, Natal. A. E. Lekoy. Aug. 27. Promises to send Kafir corn.

China, Tientsin. E. Williams, Consul-General. Aug. 29. Enclosing report on agricultural prospects of his consular district.

England, Kew. Royal Botanic Gardens. Sept. 25. Write that the flowering *Phyllostachys nigra* have failed to ripen seeds.

India, Calcutta. Wm. Michael, Sept. 17. Says Inspector General of Agriculture writes that there are varieties of mango in India known as baromeshee (fruiting 12 months.)

India, Sibpur, Calcutta. W. W. Smith, Supt. Royal Botanical Garden, Aug. 25. Sends *carissa carandas*.

India, Kavali Nellore District. E. Bullard, Aug. 20. Sends information re mangos; will send outtings.

Ireland, Drumalis, Larne, Co. Antrim. H. S. Smiley, Sept. 26. Sends plan of cotton ginnery with notes re machinery used. Has arranged to send collection of Abyssinian cereals.

Japan, Yokohama. Yokohama Nursery Co., Sept. 14. Send seeds of mitsumata.

Java, Buitenzorg. Dept. of Agriculture, Aug. 27. Promises to send seeds of *Nephelium lappaceum*, *Lansium domesticum* and *Garcinia xanthochymus*.

Liberia, Monrovia. A. J. Payne, Aug. 28. Is preparing seeds and medicinal leaves to send.

Straits Settlements, Singapore. Henry Ridley, Aug. 24. Sends information in regard to Aleurites, which grows wild there.

Straits Settlements, Penang. Walter Fox, Aug. 24. Sends specimen of Aleurites Moluocana.

Transvaal, Pretoria. J. Burt Davy, Sept. 14. Sends seed of *Carica papaya* grown at altitude of 1200 feet; sub-tropical, rather dry climate. Flavor excellent.

#### Recent Visitors Who Can Be of Assistance.

Roumania, Bucarest. Dr. Gr. Antipa, Directeur du Musée d'Histoire Naturelle. A man of unusual ability and one who can give accurate information about Roumanian plant industries.